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-- In a major speech today the President announced that 14 leaders and operatives of al Qaeda have been moved from classified locations, where they were being held and questioned by CIA, to DOD custody where they can be brought to justice for their crimes.

-- This group included those believed to have orchestrated the 9/11 attacks and the attack on the U.S.S. Cole, and those believed to have been involved in the bombings of our embassies in East Africa.

-- The International Red Cross has been notified and will have access to them at Guantanamo. No detainees remain in CIA custody.

-- After the September 11 attacks, we took the offensive to deny terrorists safe haven and kill or capture al Qaeda operatives. We had many successes, some publicly known, some not.

-- Information from captured terrorists is one of the most vital tools we have to stop new attacks. Information from captured terrorists has saved lives in the United States and overseas.

-- We created a program, run by the CIA, to focus on a small number of the most dangerous terrorists and operatives, many of whom we believed knew the terrorists' secrets about potential attacks -- secrets that would help us save innocent lives.

-- The President has sent legislation to Congress to (1) make clear the standards for questioning of captured terrorists, and (2) authorize the creation of military commissions to try terrorists for their crimes.

QUESTION: Why is this program being disclosed now? Why is it being decided to bring these detainees to GTMO now, after all this time, and disclose that we have them?

ANSWER:

-- Most of the intelligence value of these detainees has at this time been exhausted.

-- The President decided that it is important if possible to prosecute these key terrorist leaders and operatives for their crimes.

-- The Supreme Court's decision this summer in Hamdan required new legislation to try these operatives under military commissions.

-- In light of that decision, we are now asking that Congress both authorize military commissions to try these terrorists, and

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that they provide a clear legal framework for military and intelligence operations in our conflict with al Qaeda.

QUESTION: How many detainees remain in this program?

ANSWER:

-- None. However, we expect that we will continue to capture key terrorist leaders and operatives in the future.

QUESTION: How many detainees have been in the program since its inception?

ANSWER:

-- Since the development of this program in mid-2002, fewer than 100 terrorist detainees have been held for detention and questioning in CIA's custody. The program was designed only for a small number of the most dangerous terrorist leaders and operatives.

QUESTION: Were the detainees provided basic human necessities during detention?

ANSWER:

-- Yes. Terrorists held by CIA have been provided with basic human necessities.

QUESTION: How many CIA detention sites exist and where are these sites?

ANSWER:

The number of sites and locations will not be disclosed. Providing locations of CIA's detention sites would put our allies at risk of terrorist retaliation and also betray relationships built on trust that are vital to winning the war against al Qaeda and its affiliates.

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